

80 Years on the Planet



A COFFEE BREAK BOOK
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by John

Cover Photo:
John and his brother at Maoribank, Upper Hutt, NZ

Getting the best out of life?
You can do what I have done, and even better!
Life is for living, so trust in the Lord and **Go, Go, Go!**
I can do all things through Christ that can strengthen me.
(Phil. ch4:v13)

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The first thing I remembered when I came to be on the Planet was waking up in a children's crèche. I had been put down to sleep in a cot after lunch. When no one was watching, I took a look around and saw the other children. I said to myself "Oh good, I'm not the only one on the planet."

The years after that seemed to fly by. I went through college and started my apprenticeship. Then I saved up and bought a car. While living on the Planet, I began to think a lot about education and common sense. It really started when I bought my first car, and found out that whoever designed the bumper on cars did not make them all the same height. That was not in the education bracket but in the one for common sense. Try accidentally backing into another car while parking, and think about how the bumpers feel about it when they don't meet and do their job.



Working at the boat yard

Since I have been on the Planet, I noticed there did not seem to be any law about people having numbers on their houses or letterboxes that can be easily seen from a car, ambulance, fire engine, or police vehicle; it seems to be another thing that is in the common sense bracket.

Also I have noticed that cyclists need to have some identification, because most of them are breaking the law which does not seem to assist, so they get away with it: cycling without lights, going through red lights, and endangering their own lives by squeezing between cars to get to the front. I have seen this many times since I have been on the Planet. It has crossed my mind so many times that it might be better to shift to Mars. The problem is that sooner

or later, one of these cyclists is going to get killed because of the danger they put themselves and the drivers into, because in the end they will probably try to blame the driver of the cars that were involved. In the United States of America and England, I believe that the drivers are very courteous on the road, and that's how they can cope with such volumes of traffic, but in New Zealand I think they could show a lot more courtesy and patience on the road.

How to handle the crime rate and unemployment? Here's what I think will solve the unemployment problem and also help lower the crime rate. Here's the scenario: the Government is paying out the dole money; to rent a place to live is big money, and so is buying takeaways. At the same time, people are



John in the Territorials



At a 21st party

not getting full satisfaction out of life. The body is not designed to sit around. The more you do, the more enjoyment you get out of your body, and to do this you need a plan for your life. People need good regular food, exercise, and some interests to get motivated to get out of bed.

For one thing, you need to learn a skill. There are too many people going for a job and they say they can do anything. This is not good. Don't leave school waiting for options, plan ahead and learn a skill. Then for the rest of your life you will not only be doing something you like, but you will be looked up to because you are ahead of everyone else. Then, you might want to go to varsity and study, and do other jobs. If you learn a trade when you leave school you will be an asset to



Fruit picking in Melbourne

your family around the house as well. Some people can't even drive in a nail. Education without a skill is useless; because of this New Zealand has turned to custard. All the collar and tie people would be digging the road like it was in the 1920's, when it was the Great Depression. The backbone of the country is the tradesman – you need people to build houses, plumbers, bricklayers, mechanics to fix your car, and so on.

Summing up, one idea would be to use the dole money to put every person that is out of work into a place where they could all live together – men and women – something similar to a holiday camp, where the money could be used to accommodate them, and provide them with good meals. The condition

of this would be you have to agree with the way it was organised, such as bed-time, time to rise, and exercise; getting into a good routine. Then when everybody is settled in, give them all a chance to be able to learn a trade or a skill; something they alone could choose. They could have recreation, sports, concerts, and find out their unknown talents, and when they have qualified and can support themselves with a job they can go out into the community.

Let's move on, time for a laugh. While I was on the Planet I met this beautiful woman who was also on the Planet, and she is now my wife. When we got back from our honeymoon we lived in a house that we had purchased earlier. We (Dawn and myself, John) decided to have a clean-up in the garden, so we loaded up the trailer and the car, and set off for the tip. In those days it was very smelly, so when we got back we were very smelly, so we both decided to hop in the bath.

We had just got in when all of a sudden the phone rang – ring ring. So, me being a gentleman, I got out of the bath and answered the phone. It turned out to be my mother-in-law, who of course I was trying to impress, so I had to get it right. She said to me “How are things going?” and I said “Oh, just fine”, and she asked “What is the weather like?” “Oh” I said, “just fine”, and she said “It's a bit cool today”. I said “Yes” with a shiver, “but that's fine.” And then she asked

“Oh, how is Dawn?”
and I said “Never
better”, then she said
“I must be going now,
so goodbye, love to
Dawn.”

While I was on
the Planet, I was
privileged to meet the
owner of the Planet.
It was the most
wonderful thing that
happened to me in
my life, having come
across so many
problems on the
Planet, and my own. The



Gardening in Wollongong

book that the owner of
the Planet gave me, called the Bible, explained to me
what I was missing in my life to make it complete. It
said that the body is made up of three things: mental,
physical, and spiritual. If you are not exercising the
three, you will not be healthy and complete, and have
the full joy out of life. Our spirit connects us with the
spirit of God who created us. This is how he pours His
joy into us and this power, when you have this joy, no
other joy in the world compares with it; the joy of sex
does not compare.

The Bible says that the spirit of God and our spirit have intercourse which not only gives you joy, but the thing that everyone wants is a feeling of peace and the true love of God.

I read in the Bible, which we should all do for ourselves: Romans 3.23 “for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, but God has made a way for us to be forgiven”. So God himself came in the form of flesh in Jesus, to die at Easter time on the Cross on Good Friday, and to rise again from the dead on Easter Sunday; he took on himself all our sins.

In the Bible, in 1 John 1.7 “...and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin”, so you can have this spiritual relationship with God. If you pray to God wherever you are, and just tell him in your own words that you know that you have done wrong things and that you are a sinner. Say you are sorry and accept that Jesus’ blood was shed on the cross for you so that you could be pardoned from your sin, and when you die you will go to heaven and live with God.



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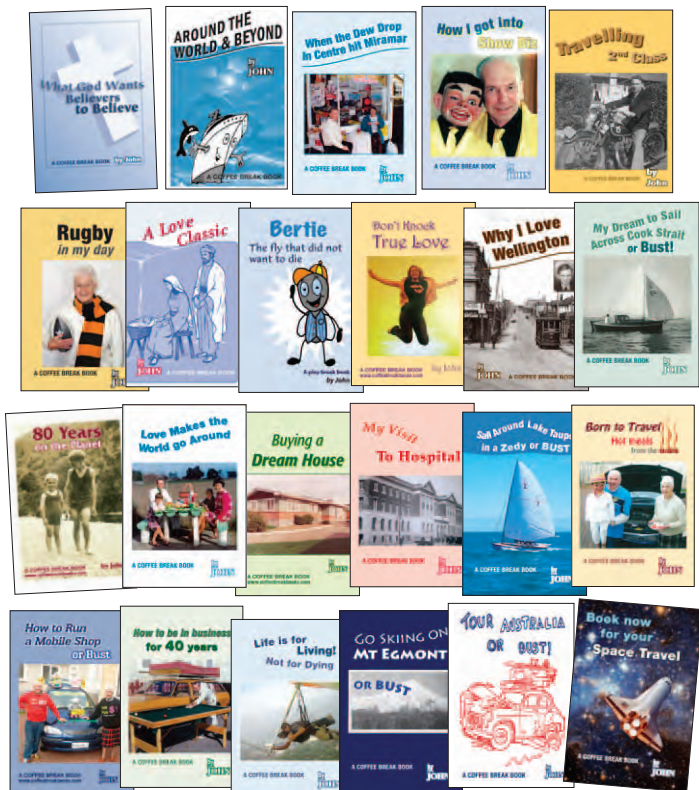
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